

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Visit Jersey City Housing Authority Site

JCHA Awarded \$9.7 Million in HOPE VI Funds

JERSEY CITY – U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development **Shaun Donovan** will be in Jersey City today to announce the award of **\$9.7 million in HOPE VI** revitalization funding to the Jersey City Housing Authority.

The **JCHA is one of six public housing authorities in the country** to receive funding to transform distressed public housing under HUD's FY 2009 HOPE VI Revitalization award process. In keeping with the Obama Administration's priorities, the JCHA included plans in its application to incorporate early childhood education into the transformation of the A. Harry Moore public housing development into a mixed-income community that will assist its residents in becoming self-sufficient.

Mayor Jerramiah Healy noted, "Our housing authority has established itself as a model for others throughout the country, from its Section 8 program to its green building practices to its award-winning redevelopments. We can't thank President Obama and Secretary Donovan enough for this funding, which will ensure that the distressed housing at A. Harry Moore becomes yet another project that Jersey City can be proud of."

JCHA Chairman and Commissioner Raj Mukherji welcomed Secretary Donovan to Jersey City, saying, "By employing innovative funding incentives and encouraging a comprehensive approach to community development, President Obama and our partners at HUD under the unrivaled leadership of Secretary Donovan are helping us to create viable mixed-income neighborhoods where vertical concentrations of poverty once stood." Mukherji added, "In keeping with other revitalizations of public housing projects undertaken by our agency, we commit that these units will not be distinguishable as 'public housing' but rather, they will be splendidly built, energy-efficient residences that future occupants would be proud to call home."

Maria Maio, Executive Director of the JCHA, said, "We are proud of our track record and our application, and these funds will allow the completion of the last three phases of a project where demolition is already underway thanks to stimulus funds. This will mark the continuation of our ongoing efforts to create quality, sustainable, affordable housing for Jersey City residents, while creating job opportunities for public housing and city residents."

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About the JCHA: The Jersey City Housing Authority is the state's second largest public housing authority, serving over 15,000 residents and responsibility for the administration of over 6,000 housing units, including approximately 2,500 public housing units and approximately 3,500 Housing Choice Vouchers.

The JCHA has been lauded as a champion of energy efficiency and green building practices, policies promoting Section 3 hiring, and an impeccable track record of revitalizing distressed public housing. In addition, the JCHA notched 99% in its 2009 annual SEMAP (Section 8 Management Assessment Program) performance rating by HUD, earning the highest score in the agency's history and the highest score in the state among similarly-sized municipal public housing authorities.

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Call Time: 1:00 p.m.
Event: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Location: A. Harry Moore Public Housing Development
348 Duncan Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07306
Setup: Podium with microphone in parking lot with building being demolished in the backdrop. The new Gloria Robinson Court Homes (townhouse-style units that replaced the old buildings in the first two phases of the A. Harry Moore revitalization) are off to your left and signage is to your right.
Press: OPEN
Attendees: 30-50

- Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy – welcoming remarks
- Commissioner Raj Mukherji, JCHA Chairman – remarks/introduction of Secretary Donovan
- Secretary Shaun Donovan – remarks
- U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg – remarks
- U.S. Senator Robert Menendez – remarks
- Rep. Albio Sires – remarks
- Closing statement and Q&A with press